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Drive Alert. Arrive Alive.

GEORGIA DOT RESTRICTS CONSTRUCTION-RELATED LANE CLOSURES IN NORTHEAST GEORGIA FOR 4TH OF JULY HOLIDAY

GAINESVILLE, Ga. – To ease 4th of July holiday weekend traffic congestion, the Georgia Department of Transportation is suspending construction-related lane closures on interstate and major state system highways in Northeast Georgia **beginning at 5 a.m. on Friday, July 1 and extending until 12:01 a.m. on Tuesday, July 5.**

“We expect heavy holiday traffic across the state as people head to parades, barbecues and fireworks,” said Brent Cook, district engineer at the DOT office in Gainesville. “By restricting lane closures, we hope this will enable motorists to travel with fewer delays and less stress.”

Safety is always a primary concern. The Department reminds motorists that crews may still work in proximity to highways; and safety concerns may require some long-term lane closures to remain in place. Also, incident management or emergency maintenance-related lane closures could become necessary at any time on any route. Whenever you approach a work zone: slow down; allow extra distance between vehicles; read signs; obey road crew flaggers; and *expect the unexpected*.

During the 2015 Fourth of July weekend, there were 15 traffic fatalities statewide, up from 14 in 2014. Georgia DOT urges drivers to **DriveAlert ArriveAlive** - to always buckle up, stay off the phone and focus on driving.

In the event of a crash or breakdown, pull off the road if possible and turn on your emergency flashers. Otherwise remain seat belted in the vehicle - never get out of the car on a freeway, unless your life is in imminent danger.

For information about travel conditions on Georgia’s interstates and state routes, call 511 before getting on the road. Georgia 511 is a free phone service that provides real-time traffic and travel information statewide, including traffic conditions, incidents, lane closures, and delays. Callers can transfer to operators to request assistance or report incidents 24 hours a day, seven days a week. In Metro Atlanta, you can also request HERO assistance by calling 511. More information is available at www.511ga.org.

DriveAlert ArriveAlive calls attention to an alarming increase in roadway fatalities across Georgia, many resulting from preventable crashes and distracted driving. *DriveAlert ArriveAlive* implores motorists to buckle up; stay off the phone and no texting; and drive alert. Visit www.dot.ga.gov/DS/SafetyOperation/DAAA. #ArriveAliveGA For more information about Georgia DOT, visit www.dot.ga.gov. You may follow us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/GeorgiaDOT) and Twitter (<http://twitter.com/gadepotrans>).

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